BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 17: March - April 2014

Interviews

Wonderland Designs

I-アイ-

ElüpiA

Fashion & features

Helcanen in Japan

Sweet Lolita

Fairy tales and magic in the music of

MAGISTINA SAGA

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible for them.

INTRODUCTION

Our 17th edition is all about fashion, music and photography. We have absolutely loads of the stunningly gorgeous photography by **Helcanen** (www.helcanen.be, do check it out!). She photographed several lives in Tokyo, **Japan** for us this very winter and to top it off we have a feature with beautiful city photography by her hand of several Japanese places. If you want to get a great look on the land of the rising sun, her photos are definitely the place to start!

Photography of Japan by Helcanen isn't all we have this edition, we also have a feature on **Sweet Lolita** and to stay with fashion we spoke to **Amaya Yuki**, the designer of quirky and cool headwear label **Wonderland Designs**.

Of course BCM wouldn't be BCM without music and for this edition we spoke to Magistina Saga, I-ai and ElüpiA, bringing you Visual-kei, J-rock and Operatic Soprano style Metal.

And there is more: we have art, snap photos, event reviews and then some!

As always I'd like to thank everyone who helped put together this edition, and of course all our readers too! I hope you'll enjoy this edition!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

As everyone well knows, sweet lolita is one of the three main styles of lolita fashion, together with its sister styles gothic lolita and classic lolita. This article endeavours to cover the basics of the style, as well as some of the more popular style mixes.

There are a few things that sweet lolita styles always have in common. Incredibly important is the silhouette: whether you wear a skirt, JSK or one piece dress, a cupcake poof petticoat is essential. Because a petticoat that poufy is hard to find, and sadly doesn't remain that voluminous forever a lot of girls have taken to layering petticoats.

Soft, pastel colours are often a basis, and if you go for garments without print, a must. Prints sometimes have white, cream, black and even brown or brighter colours as a basis, but generally pastel pink, mint, baby blue, lilac and pastel yellow are favoured. Without exception prints are always a variation of things considered adorable, cute or nice, sometimes even saccharine sweet or creepy kawaii. Childlike (avoid childish) prints are commonplace, such as baby animals drawn in a cute cartoon style way, dessert foods and sweets are the most used within this style, but flowers on pastel basis have also been used.

There are several Japanese brands that cater to sweet lolita: *Angelic Pretty*, *Metamorphose Temps de Fille* and *Baby, the Stars Shine Bright* probably the main ones, but other brands have ventured there so it's worth to check those out as well. Aside from actual *burando*, plenty of indi brands from all over the globe are either sweet lolita labels or cater to the wearers of this particular style.
For the sewing savvy lolita: fabrics with appropriate prints and colours are easy to find in stores that sell quilting fabrics both off- and online.
For those on a budget *Bodyline* may form a viable alternative, and off-brand, thrift shops and main street stores often can be source of nice blou-ses and cutsews, if you look hard enough.
Cute cardigans and coats are essential when the weather gets cold(er). Cardigans can easily be found pretty much everywhere, and for those on a budget we can advise cute short coats from a high street store when brand isn't an option.

Popular accessories include elaborate accessories and wigs. And whilst wigs are worn by most people that wear sweet lolita, it is by no means necessary. Head accessories are a definite must with sweet, and often you see giant bows combined with smaller bows and a variety of hairclips, headbands or fascinators themed to match the print and/or colours of the main pieces of the garment.
Hats consist of bonnets, cute berets, or plush animal eared hats.
Only in casual sweet lolita is it ok to forego hair accessories altogether, but mostly even then it is advised to wear a small hair accessory to finish off the outfit.
Bags are also a crucial element. Whilst bags shaped in a design or tote bags with matching print (and often from the same print series as the garment) are first choice for most people, although a normal bag in a matching colour works just as well.
Footwear ranges from actual lolita footwear (heels or flats both work), cute sneakers (in matching print or colours) or cute shoes you find in normal stores such as mary janes or low shoes (again in matching print or colour) will all work, depending on what kind of sweet your outfit is. Wristcuffs and cute jewellery, especially depicting elements from the print you've chosen to wear, or matching it, are also must haves.

Over the top (OTT) sweet lolita is probably the style most people think of when thinking about sweet lolita. It is extremely elaborate, and literally every piece worn is Lolita appropriate from the feet up.
Footwear consists of cute Lolita appropriate shoes, such as the famous tea parties to give an example. When using "normal" footwear that works shoe clips in the shapes of bows or flowers are often used (hair clips with alligator clips are a great alternative for actual shoe clips) paired with socks, that just like the footwear, match the colour of your main piece. Often these socks are of the over the knee variety but nylons are also popular. These are often printed, and whilst you can get them of the same print as that of your main piece, a contrasting print works just as well, as long as it matches. When wearing plain garments, you can still liven up your outfit a little with printed legwear. In summer lace ankle socks are a great alternative.
A pain piece in appropriate colour or print, paired with a ditto cutsew or blouse, often paired with a matching cardigan cover the clothing part of the outfit.

Wristcuffs, cute jewellery and hair accessories that match the garments are essential, and a wig is preferred. With this style, wigs can either come in natural hair colours and/or matching colours. Whilst they are often subjected to the current hair trends of Japan, you can wear a wig style that isn't currently popular. As long as, just like every other element in coordinate, your wig matches your outfit it's all good.
Another popular trend in sweet Lolita right now are sashes reminiscent of pageants and magic wands or staffs. Whilst these are undoubtedly cute with a lot of outfits you need to keep in mind that to outsiders they'll only make your outfit look more like a costume than it may already do.
The tricky part is to take all those necessary elements and make sure they match, otherwise your coordinate can start looking overloaded and clowneske.

Sweet lolita _can_ be worn without going over the top. You can either wear a sweet take on *casual lolita* or as a middle way between casual and over the top, which is the most elaborate version of the style. When going for one of these options, elaborate wigs are generally not favoured, and accessories are kept more toned down.

Bittersweet lolita is basically sweet lolita with black as colour basis. You can wear it either OTT or tone it down, just like regular sweet. Other than the black basis the same rules mostly apply. It does lend itself to being a little "tougher" coordination wise, which means that outfits can contain spiked bracelets or headbands and a variety of boots instead of the regular cute footwear. Cute boots are preferred of course, but aren't a necessity. (Faux) leather jackets can also be combined with these outfits.

Classic sweet is a more recent development in sweet lolita fashion and is a mix between sweet and *classic lolita*. The prints are generally still sweet, but drawn in a more mature way and generally the cuts have that typical classic lolita elegance. Brands such as *Innocent World* and *Emily Temple Cute* quite regularly sell garments for this style but you can find printed fabric and make your own quite easily. Another option is to take a traditional sweet lolita garment and combine it with blouses, accessories and footwear associated with classic lolita for that instant classic sweet style.

Like many J-fashion styles, style mixes between sweet lolita exist with street styles that have nothing to with Lolita fashion an sich. Whilst a combination of *decora* and sweet Lolita has made some way for the kind of OTT we see nowadays, quite a few lolitas still love the brightly coloured x sweet mix of this particular combo.
Those loving the more relaxed rules of *fairy kei* but the aesthetic of sweet lolita throw the styles together wearing lolita skirts with the typical cupcake petticoat in an otherwise fairy kei ensemble.
The typical *gal* hairstyles, make-up, colour schemes and romantic flower prints also lend themselves very well to a variation on classic sweet.

Sweet lolita may look like it is just a bunch of pastels and cuteness thrown together but it is in fact one of the most challenging styles of lolita because it contains so many elements and they all have to fit together perfectly. It is also one of the most varied substyles, easily lending itself to style mixes and variations on the traditional ways of wearing it. As long as you follow the basic rules of sweet and build from there, you're on the right track.

Fashion ranging from
saccharine to bittersweet.

Four different coordinates in four different styles of Sweet Lolita with Angelic Pretty's Little Bear's Café in brown.
Ranging from OTT Sweet to Classic Sweet and Casual Sweet.

Wig, Lockshop Wigs (mermaid in auburn). **Headbow**, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. **Hair accessories**, 6%DokiDoki. Necklace, Angelic Pretty. **Blouse**, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. **JSK**, Angelic Pretty (Milky Berry). Rings, Angelic Pretty and Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. **Socks**, Angelic Pretty. **Shoes**, Secret Shop. **Other accessories**, Bodyline and Chess Story.

Coordinate with Angelic Pretty's Sugary Carnival paired with a vintage peignoir, Angelic Pretty bags and accessories and Secret Shop shoes.

Hairaccessories, Model's own. **Cardigan,** model's own. **JSK,** Angelic Pretty (Tea Time a la Mode). **Socks,** model's own. **Boots,** Doc Martens.

Carrousel headpiece, handmade by Lunie and Dody. **Tule headpiece**, handmade by Lunie. **Fluffy hairbow**, Chocomint. **Wig**, Angelic Girlish. **Necklace**, Angelic Pretty. **One-piece dress**, Angelic Pretty (Daydream Carnival). **Wristcuffs**, Angelic Pretty. **Bracelets**, offbrand and Chocomint. **Rings**, handmade. **Socks**, Alice and the Pirates. **Shoes**, Angelic Pretty.

Wig, Ebay. **Coat,** Dream of Lolita (Vanilla Cat Applique coat). **JSK,** Dream of Lolita (Poodle Applique). **Boots,** Miranda.

Headbow, Angelic Pretty. **Hairaccessories**, model's own. **Blouse**, offbrand. **Brooch**, Angelic Pretty. **Bracelets**, model's own. **Skirt**, Angelic Pretty (Star Night Theatre). **Socks**, Angelic Pretty. **Shoes**, Angelic Pretty.

Headbows, Angelic Pretty. **Wig**, Lockshop Wigs. **Blouse**, Bodyline. **JSK**, Angelic Pretty (Wonder Cookie). **Wristcuffs**, Angelic Pretty. **Jewellery**, Misako and offbrand. **Socks**, Angelic Pretty. **Shoes**, Secret Shop.

Headbow, Camille et Margot. **Hairflowers** and **earrings**, Claire's. **Blouse**, thrifted. **JSK**, handmade with fabric from Spoonflower.com (Angelic Derpy by Amenoo). **Tights** and **socks**, offbrand and Claire's. **Shoes**, Gabor.

Headbows, Camille et Margot, handmade, offbrand, Angelic Pretty. **Wristcuffs**, Angelic Pretty. **Bracelets**, Angelic Pretty, offbrand. **Cardigan**, model's own. **JSK**, Angelic Pretty (Dreamy Macaron). **Tights** and **socks**, model's own. **Shoes**, Secret Shop.

Mini bunny and macarons hat, Pastel Parade. **Pink and white braided hair bow,** MchaMcha 69. **Macarons and plate 2-way brooch,** Pastel Parade. **Tea cup necklace,** Pastel Parade. **Sugary biscuit rings,** Pastel Parade.
Available from www.lunieshop.com
(please note that we are not responsible for stock, sometimes things just sell out really fast!)
Other clothes, accessories and shoes, model's own.

Bunny eared mini hat, Pastel Parade.
Curly pink and white hair barrette, Pastel Parade.
Tea cup necklace, Pastel Parade. **Blue candy ring,** Chocomint.
Coloured pearls bracelet, Chocomint.
Available from www.lunieshop.com
(please note that we are not responsible for stock, sometimes things just sell out really fast!)
Other clothes, model's own.

check it !

LUNIE SHOP.com

Japanese fashion
Clothes ★ Accessories
Shoes ★ Wigs ★ and more !

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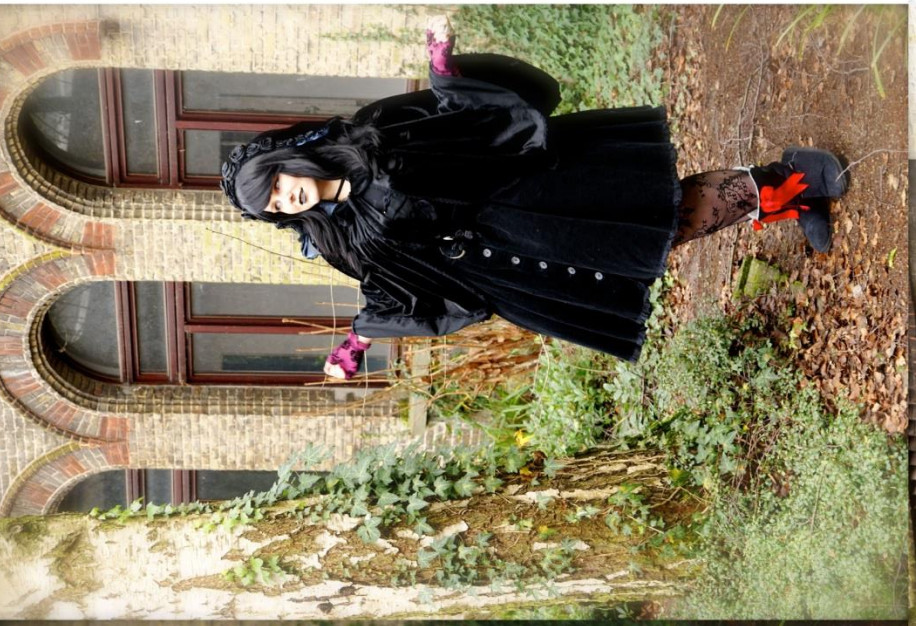
BELGIAN CUPCAKES LOLITA FASHION MEET

Sunday, January 5; Ghent, Belgium

Photography by and provided by Kathleen Vandervee.



ARTIFAKT STEAMPUNK COLLECTIVE

Belated Christmas meet/first meet of the new year!

Winter Wonderland, shopping for craft supplies, photo fun and hanging out!
Sunday, January 5; Hasselt, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, Marijke Van Hauwaert and a kind passer-by.

FAIRY TALE THEMED J-FASHION MEET

Saturday, February 1; Antwerp, Belgium

Photography by and provided by Hilde Heyvaert.

BELGIAN CUPCAKES LOLITA FASHION MEET

Dessert lunch, (non alcoholic) drinks and photo fun.
Sunday, February 16; Louvain, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, Agnes Van De Genachte and a kind passer-by.

J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

AKB48
"Tsugi no Ashiato"
Album
Genre: J-pop

The 5th studio album of reknowned J-pop idol group *AKB48* is a double one, and is good for a whopping 116 minutes of Japanese pop tunes of the highest quality spread over 25 songs and 2 discs. There is no doubt about it that with this release, the listener is really getting worth their money. It's a combination between new songs and some of the bands hits such as *"Manatsu no Sound's good!"* and *"So Long!"*, displaying the band's growth as well as their continuing recording talent. As far as vocal combinations go, AKB48 remains virtually unchallenged as the many singers' voices not only match and compliment each other perfectly, they're also a well oiled machine when it comes to singing together without ever missing a beat of the upbeat and forever perky pop music that accompanies the vocals. What's especially great about this band is that, contrary to others in the genre, they rely on actual instruments rather than electronics, and they don't just stick to pop music. There are clear elements of other genres such as Jazz, crooner and even big band present, making *Tsugi no Ashiato* a refreshing release within the Japanese pop music genre, that is a definite recommendation for all pop lovers out there.

INORAN
"Sakura"
EP preview
(http://inoran.org/somewhere)
Genre: rock

Sakura is the 5th song on the upcoming EP *Somewhere*, and with it *INORAN* continues his trend of singing in English. It's a good solid rock song with strong ballad like tones to it, which only contributes to the slightly melancholic yet hopeful atmosphere of the track. It's definitely a song that makes the listener curious for the other four songs on the EP, because it is quite clear, even from this preview, that INORAN is still growing as an artist, and I am looking forward to hear the full EP to see his road unwind further.

Momoiro Clover Z
"Momo Clo Natsu no Bakasawagi
WORLD SUMMER DIVE 2013.8.4
Nissan Stadium Taikai"
Concert DVD
Genre: J-pop

36 songs, several MCs and interludes, 5 outfit changes and over a dozen special guests spread over 3 DVDs with documentary extras and one included photo book, *Momoclo*'s concert at *Nissan Stadium Takai* mobilised over 60 000 fans and this live representation of said concert is more than a little awesome. The theme that largely ran throughout the concert and that reoccurred several times was a parody on the Olympics, which was very entertaining and often quite hilarious. Even though a live of that magnitude is obviously serious business that can be rather intimidating, the band and the production team approached it with a great sense of humour that made all the professionalism just light hearted enough to allow everyone to easily enjoy it to the fullest. The stadium was used to the fullest and whilst the stage obviously couldn't be set up on the game field, they found a lot of good use for said field regardless, allowing the audience a(n up) close(r) look for their idols. There wasn't just one traditional stage with side screens, instead they used several stages throughout the area and even little character cars, often reminiscent of floats in a *Disney* theme park parade to get about and perform from. The announcements happening in several languages (one of the few times throughout all three DVDs that English is used) really felt like a Disney parade about to happen, which really only contributed to the general feel and atmosphere of the entire event. The collaborations spread throughout the concert were definitely a great addition and through them the band also proves that J-pop can work really well with different styles and performing arts as they easily proved when sharing the stage with guitar legend *Tomayasu Hotei*, *Shigeru Matsuzaki* and three of the actors of the *Sailor Moon musical* for which the band produced an all new song (that will also be used for the new upcoming Sailor Moon anime series). Of course they performed this song, for the very first time life in fact. What stood out to me the most is that the girls in the band are very obviously real people, they're not the same kind of thirteen in a dozen pop stars like you see in Western all girl-bands, instead they are very real girls that clearly have their own personality. I know this is an integral part of the idol culture, but on this DVD they come over as very real people that you could run into in the street, which is great and is undoubtedly a great example for young people everywhere. And they were clearly having a blast performing and loved every second of being there, which was obvious from all the interaction with their fans. Even if you can't understand Japanese it's something you'll pick up on. Not only is this no doubt a great memory for everyone that was there, but it's also a really good representation of the concert for those that couldn't attend it in person on the day. As far as stadium concerts go, this Momoiro Clover Zone, with its elaborate costumes, speciality stages, orchestra and athlete performances and even the jet pack demonstration, is definitely right at the top.

Ryo Fujimura
Daily Sound Scapes
Online Music
Genre: Electronic rock

Ryo Fujimura, who was just recently in Europe with his electronic solo project (for more information see BCM # 16), has been making beautiful electronic rock songs on a semi daily basic in and posted them on his *Soundcloud* account as *Daily Sound Scapes*. If you want to keep up with his beautiful tracks full of sincerity and emotion, make sure to visit soundcloud.com/ryo-fujimura.

SEKAI NO OWARI
"Starlight Parade"
Single
Genre: Electronic Pop

Japanese band *SEKAI NO OWARI* has just signed with European label *Boumqueur* and to celebrate the auspicious occasion the band will digitally release their new single *Starlight Parade* in March. It's just the one cute electronic song, but they're making it count regardless. It's upbeat with good, solid arrangements that have you tapping your foot and nodding your head to the beat in no time. People that love cheerful electronic J-pop style music will more than likely find this appealing.

SPYAIR
MILLION
Album
Genre: J-rock

SPYAIR is back, and thanks to *JPU Records* we can not only buy their latest release, *MILLION*, in Europe, but we can also get it in a special edition with three bonus tracks! That good news aside, MILLION is a solid, varied album, displaying the ever growing skill of the band as well as their musical evolution. Whilst they are still stuck on their signature sound, it's clear that said sound continuously evolves as the band grows. This latest release is a more mature SPYAIR that still has all the elements that made them rise to fame in the first place. The songs range in types of rock, going from soft to harder, which displays the band's skill as composers and musicians nicely. All in all it's a good rock album with softer vibes consistent through the track list. It's al little more commercial and even safer than what we've come to know from this band, but it's an album very much worth listening to regardless.

METAL FEMALE VOICES FEST
OKTOBERHALLEN (BE) XII OCTOBER 17-18-19, 2014

Synk;yet
－シンクイエット－

2ndワンマン決定!

2014.07.20(sun) 高田馬場AREA

1stフルアルバム先行発売記念ワンマン「the Graceful Savior」

待望の新音源リリース!

3rd Maxi Single「Silent Prayer」
2014.04.25 Release

1st full album「the Graceful Savior」
2014.08.20 Release

三ヶ月連続主催イベント決定!

2014.03.19 池袋EDGE　2014.04.25 池袋CYBER　2014.05.30 池袋CYBER

■ Event Schedule

2014.02.25 池袋CYBER　2014.04.17 仙台PARK SQUARE(スリーマン)
2014.04.24 池袋RUIDO K3　2014.05.04 池袋EDGE　2014.05.25 池袋RUIDO K3

■ レーベル4周年 Starwave Fest Vol.8 ツアー

2014.03.07 今池Club 3Star　2014.03.08 心斎橋Club ALIVE!
2014.03.13 仙台Macana　2014.03.16 池袋EDGE(ツアーファイナル)

■ Starwave Fest Vol.9

2014.06.16 TSUTAYA O-WEST

■ 着うた配信中!

iTunes / music.jp超高音質,スマートフォン / music.jp超高音質フル,スマートフォン / mero.jpうたフル / インディーズ公式サウンド
オリコンインディーズフル / MySoundウタフル / コール♪mu-mo / うたフル♪mu-mo / レコチョク フル / レコチョク RBT

■ リリース情報

1st mini album「Messiah-メサイア-」発売中 在庫残少
5曲入り / 12ページブックレット / 2,100円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚限定 / SWSY-1 / ダイキサウンド

2nd mini album「Sacred Symphony」発売中 在庫残少
CD+DVD二枚組仕様 / 5曲入り / 12ページブックレット / 2,500円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚限定 / SWSY-2 / ダイキサウンド

2nd maxi single「Cross of sin」発売中
CD+DVD二枚組仕様 / 3曲入り / 12ページブックレット / 2,100円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚限定 / SWSY-3 / FWD Inc.

Starwave Records
http://synkyet.com
Costume: Love Cats. Photo by Akio Yokoyama. Hair & Make: Tritt fur Tritt

シンクイェット　検索

LOKA

Shimokitazawa Garden
Tokyo - Japan
Friday, December 20 2013

Full house for the final show of *LOKA*'s international tour on December 20th, at *Shimokitazawa Garden*.
After their long journey in South Asia and Europe, the four guys of *LOKA* were finally back in Japan, and this final show was an explosive final highlight out of the 25-dates *DEVA's EX Tour*. The Garden's stage was settled in order to put a nice light on each musician, in an unusual but nice setup with individual stages. A giant screen in the back played the role of an opening act: right before the show, PA launched an exclusive and complete documentary video about LOKA's adventures in Indonesia and Europe. Concert images, backstage scenes, off-stage moments, bad jokes from drummer *Ken'ichi* to guitarist *Sin*; the documentary showed LOKA's personality to the audience: the guys are highly motivated, talented, but also funny and full of energy!

A little about their audience now. LOKA's fans came in numbers to enjoy the tour's final show. *Shimokitazawa Garden* was clearly full of a heterogeneous crowd, composed with men and women of all ages, metalheads, young VK-girls, J-rockers and furthermore even some fans from foreign countries showed up. The various musical origins of LOKA's members successfully allows them to attract and combine fans from different scenes.

2 hours, 15 songs.
LOKA started the show with one of their most catchy songs, the sexy and appealing *SLICK*. With a strong stage presence and a dynamic performance from the very beginning of the concert, LOKA promised unforgettable memories to their fans. The guys were hot and well-prepared. Indeed we heard in backstage that they worked hard to make this show perfect. Second was the latest single *From Yesterday*: a powerful and touching song, followed by *11th hour*. Song after song, the band showed their ability to move from one musical style to one other, from heavy sound to more romantic ballads. Same goes for vocalist *Kihiro*, who easily changed from growls to rap or clean vocals.

Whilst charismatic vocalist Kihiro is undoubtedly the leading light of the band, he can always count on his outstanding and stylish drummer *Ken'Ichi* (obviously a fan-magnet as well, with girls screaming his name all over the venue). After an acoustic version of *Don't ever leave me out*, and *Left of me*, the ex. *SexMachineGuns* member offered an amazing drum solo, doubled by electro samples. The audience was simply blown away after that. Headbanging during the last part for the concert! LOKA played three stunning tracks: *Naked to my soul*, *Oblivion Heart* and the wild final song *Club Rock Shit*, which made some people moshing in the venue!

Of course, the guys came back on stage once again for a 3 song encore, cheered on by the loud screams of their fans. They started with the much awaited track *Alive*, followed by the exciting *Everybody Rock 'n Roll* and finally *Make it Through*. A perfect panel of LOKA's abilities and musical large range of talents.

LOKA's attitude.
Whilst the performance is smoothly professional, LOKA's members never miss the opportunity to joke around in any language. As proof: an MC fully done in dirty French, hopefully only understood by the Euro-staff members present at the venue. Japanese fans couldn't give a positive response to the desperate "Montrez vos nichons" (Show me your boobs) from unlucky Kihiro, who sings his lyrics usually almost in English only while the fans in Japan usually are hyped up by Japanese MCs.

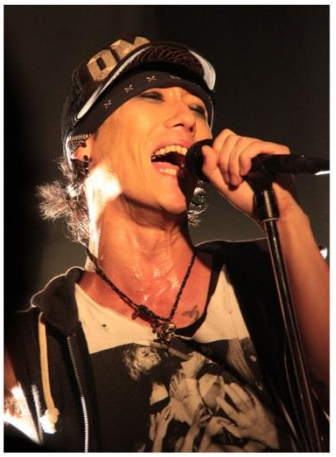
In a nutshell, LOKA performed an amazing live, a flawless tour final of the first international tour of a very promising band.

Set List:

1.SLICK
2.From Yesterday
3.11th hour
- MC
4.Yellow Cherry
5.Fight Night
6.Jive
- MC
7.Don't ever leave me out
8.Left of me
9.Drum solo
10. Tsubasa trigger
- MC
11. Naked to my soul
12. Oblivion Heart
13. Club Rock Shit

Encore

1.ALIVE
2.Everybody Rock n'Roll
3.Make it through



Review by Aurélie Vandecasteele. hotography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).

GHOST HARLEM

Live at Crescendo.

Saturday, December 21 2013; Kichijoji, Tokyo, Japan.

Photograph by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).

PAN-D-RA

Live at Narcisse.

Friday, December 27 2013; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

THE SOUND BEE HD

Live at Ikebukuro Edge
Monday, January 6; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

MISARUKA LIVE AT FINAL SYMPHONY

Symphony of Roses, a live event at Ikebukuro EDGE.
Tuesday, January 21; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

SYNK;YET LIVE AT FINAL SYMPHONY

Symphony of Roses, a live event at Ikebukuro EDGE.
Tuesday, January 21; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

TOKAMI LIVE AT FINAL SYMPHONY

Symphony of Roses, a live event at Ikebukuro EDGE.
Tuesday, January 21; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

SYMPHONY OF ROSES

A three day Starwave Records event.

FINAL SYMPHONY

Eight different Visual-kei bands live at Ikebukuro EDGE.
Tuesday, January 21; Tokyo, Japan.

Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

I-ai

Bar Live 301
Roubaix - France
Thursday, January16 2014

Râmen Events, in cooperation with *Jessica Öjermalm*, who is the band's manager, opens this particular concert season with their first band to tour with this year, Japanese visual-kei and J-rock duo *I-ai*.
We attended their very first concert of their very first European tour, and actually very first tour full stop, in our favourite small club venue: *Bar Live 301* in Roubaix, France.
First of all: whilst the acoustics in the venue are generally absolutely fantastic, this time there was a small issue with one of the guitar amps, causing a weird kind of static, especially for people wearing earplugs to protect their eardrums. This was the first time I've known this to happen, and I sure hope I won't be treated to repeat experiences at future concerts as I like my guitar sounds without an annoying buzz tinged to them.
That aside, it was a very minor thing and I-ai rocked regardless of it. I'm just mentioning it in case others heard it too, and I want to make sure people know it was the PA, and not the band.

Don't let the fact that this band is just a duo fool you, because with just vocalist Hiroaki Nakashima and guitarist *Yuki Aneyoshi* they manage the same level of stage presence as a real band, and with the help of some added electronics, they make up for the lack of other members with ease. It was thus absolutely no surprise they easily got the crowd on their hand within mere moments into the first song, and kept them happily dancing and rocking out or otherwise enjoying their music for the entire duration of the concert.

They played a great variation of their songs, truly bringing them alive as they are definitely far better sounding during a concert than on CD. Don't get me wrong, their recorded music is accomplished, but they're a band that is definitely stronger and far better when performing their music in concert. They tackle a lot of different genres on their albums mixing them in the typical I-ai sound, and I was pleased that they did the same live, and that they were unafraid to take their musical experimentation on tour with them.

And whilst Hiroaki's English is still very basic, and his French even more so, he did his utmost to try to communicate with the audience, which was much appreciated by all, and it was great to see how they warmly welcomed the band and embraced their music, something I-ai was visibly touched about. I don't doubt that they have build very solid fanbase here in Europe by their excellent performances in Europe. If that in Roubaix was something to go by that will definitely be the case.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Setlist

Opening segment
1.EGOISM
2.Crystallize
3.ROSARIO
4.DEEP SEA
5.Liquid Flower
6.TSKUKI
Yuki's guitar solo
Prologue segment
7.Starting point
8.BARA TO HEBI
9.NEO JESUS
10. Mona Lisa
11. Christian Rose
12. Duty
Encore:
13. NIGHT WING
14. "I" Awake
Ending segment

I-アイ- ON TOUR

I-ai's very first European tour.
January 16 - 24.

Photography by David Pleszak.

ミサルカ

アルバム完売に付き、リレコーディング&リマスタリングによるセカンドプレス発売決定!

1stフルアルバム [Episodes-Merrow-完全盤] 2014.4.2 Release

SWMR-8 / 3,240円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚 / 12曲収録・16ページブックレット仕様 / FWD Inc.

Event Schedule

2014.1.14(tue)今池Club 3Star　2014.1.15(wed)心斎橋Club ALIVE!　2014.1.21(tue)池袋EDGE　2014.2.8(sat)池袋CYBER
2014.3.7(fri)今池CLUB 3STAR　2014.3.8(sat)心斎橋Club ALIVE!　2014.3.13(thr)仙台MACANA　2014.3.16(sun)池袋EDGE　2014.3.19(wed)池袋EDGE

Vocal & Piano: rui　Guitar: rin　Guitar: sawah　Bass: azami　Drums: vetchie　Total Produced & All Arrangement: Misaruka, Artist Management Label: Starwave Records, Mixing & Mastering: vetchie
Graphic design: Kiwamu, Photo by Akio Yokoyama, Costume Design: Love Cats, Hair&Make: Tritt fur Tritt, Staff: Ayami Takeda, Kantarou Sakurai, Executive Producer: Kiwamu (Starwave Records)

http://misaruka.jp　ミサルカ Jester　検索

※YouTubeにてMV「-Jester-」を配信中!

2014.03.04 池袋CYBER

1stフルアルバム発売記念 60分限定無料ワンマン

OPEN: 18:00 / START 18:30 / 前売 ¥0 / 当日 ¥0　OA: Magistina Saga
※ドリンク代の600円がかかります。

■A:2013年10月27日池袋CYBERミサルカ物販配布プレミアムチケット(No.1〜100シャッフル) ■B:バンド予約
■C:当日券&フライヤー付きチケット　入場順:A→B→C
※10月27日池袋CYBERミサルカ物販配布プレミアムチケットは第一部&第二部両方ご来場の方への特典となります。

Starwave Records

無料ワンマン チケット

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MAGISTINA
SAGA:
Fairy tales and magic

2014 is promising to be a very exciting year for **Magistina Saga**, *the dynamic visual kei trio all about fairy tales and magic.*
In this interview they tell us a little more about things they like, and especially what we can expect from the band later this year.

Your musical concept is described as one of "fairy tale of reality and magic". Are you very influenced by fairy tales, Which is your favourite fairy tale?
Urugi (guitar): *Alice in Wonderland*. During one of the English classes in school I read the scene from *Through the Looking Glass* where *Humpty Dumpty* made an appearance. That really sparked my interest!
Iori (vocals): The story I most often read when I was a child was *The Wizard of Oz*. My next favourite is *The Little Mermaid*. Although I didn't compose any songs for the band, the lyrics for *Double Face* are based on the concept of The Little Mermaid.
Kyo (bass): I guess my favourite is *Cinderella*. I really like it because you can clearly understand both good and bad parts in life from this story.

If you were a fairy tale character, who or what would you be?
Urugi: I guess I'd be Alice.
Iori: I want to be a Wizard!
Kyo: It doesn't matter who I am as long as I can be a prince.

You've released "MV collection vol.1" quite recently, which was available for a limited time. Why did you go for such a limited release?
Urugi: I guess it's limited because the Japanese love the words "limited time only" *laughs*. I'm kidding! Honestly, it's because we are making ourselves work hard to sell them by setting a limited release time.
Iori: I guess it evokes this particular special feeling.
Kyo: When it's a limited release, I suppose the value goes up as well.

Do you think you will rerelease it at a later date but in unlimited format next time?
Urugi: At this point there aren't any plans for a re-release. But if there is a huge call for one, it might happen.
Kyo: Unfortunately at this point that has yet to be decided.

Which of the three music videos on the DVD is your personal favourite and why?
Urugi: For me it would be *Double Face* on the first place, *魔が指す導き* on the second and *After Artifice* on the third. Although I have various reasons for this particular ranking, to me personally Double Face has the best member coordination so I really like it. 魔が指す導き was a member's best that Kyo actually directed and shot various scenes of. It was the first time we shot a music video with such a complicated story and thoughts to it. And then After Artifice was our very first MV, I put it in the last place because it's pretty "green" and a little embarrassing.
Iori: It's the same for me as well. I put Double Face in the first place simply because it's one of the best works we've delivered so far. It also has the most views on *Youtube*. 魔が指す導き and After Artifice contain memories of the filming, which was done with lots of trial and error.
Kyo: My ranking is the same as Urugi's and Iori's simply because this is how I like them.

Ever since 2011 you have released at least one EP every year, do you have any plans for another release in 2014? Will it be another EP or a full CD?
Urugi: This year we'll be holding a pre-sale of our full album at the live venue on May 23rd. It will contain songs with an atmosphere unlike anything experienced before! We believe that everyone who has enjoyed our music so far will be able to enjoy this new side to Magistina Saga with a fresh mind. The quality and finishing of this album will also top that of the past! We've specially requested our label colleague, *YUU*-san of *lix* to specially arrange some of the songs. So without a doubt this is definitely something worth looking forward to!

Iori: This is the first full album for Magistina Saga and we've worked really hard together to bring forward our best work! As Urugi said, the pre-sale will be held on our first one man live on May 23, which will be the commemoration for the release!
Kyo: Please look forward to this first full album which will bring you new songs that are better than before! It will be an album worth listening to!

If literally anything was possible, what would you like to do with the band in 2014?
Urugi: I'd love to have an orchestra play our backing music in a huge venue. I'd be great if we were able to perform our own songs with an all live orchestra performance and sound!
Iori: Since all the members like anime, I'd love to have a tie-in with an anime or animated movie! So many people would know us then! And I'd also love to be able to perform overseas!
Kyo: I'd love to be able to hold a tour that spans various places.

What is the strangest thing that has happened to you so far as a member of Magistina Saga?
Urugi: I'll definitely catch a cold when I visit Tokyo. No matter how much great care I take of my body whilst traveling, my throat will start getting irritated and I'll catch that cold halfway through the journey from Osaka. It gets through right before I arrive in Tokyo *laughs*.
Iori: And then said cold will be caught by others as soon as he returns to Osaka.
Kyo: At this point I've not really encountered any strange happenings.

***Starwave Records* bands often form collaborations with other bands on the label for projects, which other band would you like to work with in the future?**
Urugi: I'd like to be a copy band of *Tokami*'s *Agato*-san and the artist *ASAKI*!
Iori: I really like *SUICIDE ALI*'s music, so it'd be awesome if they could let me sing a song they especially composed for us.
Kyo: SUICIDE ALI is one of the main reasons that we formed Magistina Saga, so I think it'd be great fun if we could hold a collaboration live together!

What's the best compliment a fan has ever given you?
Urugi: "It was really fun, to the extend where I could forget about time, thank you, the songs were great."
Iori: I become really happy when people approach us as a band or individual member with a smile and say they like us.
Kyo: It makes me happy when people think our band is cool.

As a closing note, is there anything about the band that is not commonly known that you would like to share with our readers?
Urugi: My grandfather is the president of a certain company. I can't talk about any of the details, but he's always had my back and always rescued me. So in this world, even more so than for my parents, my grandfather is the one I'm truly grateful for. Someday I'd like to carry out filial piety to my grandfather!
Iori: This is something I've not made public in Japan yet, but I am keeping a cat! It's a black cat and it's name is *KAREN*-chan!
Kyo: I'm left handed.

Official site: www.magistinasaga.com
Official facebook: www.facebook.com/magistinasaga

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Akio Yokoyama.
Japanese translations by Esther Huang and Kyde Lariel.
Many thanks to Magistina Saga and Kiwamu Kai of Starwave Records.

I-AI
Together as one.

In the wake of their recent release Crystallize, I-アイ- (I-ai, pronounced as "eye") toured European clubs, bringing their spirited music to the European audience for the first time. In a wake of true first, BCM was the first to do an on tour face to face interview with the band on the afternoon of their very first concert of their very first tour.

If you were to introduce I-ai's music to someone that doesn't know it yet by letting them listen to just one song from your latest album Crystallize, which song would you chose and why?
Hiroaki Nakashima (vocals): I would have to say "*Starting Point.*"
Yuki Aneyoshi (guitar): I agree, definitely Starting Point.

I-ai is a really catchy name, how did you come up with it and what does it mean?
Hiroaki: It's the Roman number 1. As a band we work as one, our hearts beat as one. And we hope that the band can connect to our fans and share that one heart so we will all be as one with one heartbeat.
Yuki: Aside from that, it is also the Japanese word for love.
Hiroaki: I came up with it because to me it was like a message from my God, saying we should go with I-ai *laughs*.

It's the eve of the first concert of your very first European tour, how do you feel?
Hiroaki: We're very excited.
Yuki: And absolutely looking forward to it.

Did you prepare for this tour in any other way than you would for a tour in Japan?
Hiroaki: Not really, as this is actually our very first tour full stop. Tonight is a night of many firsts. It's the first time for everything *smiles*

What message do you hope to convey to the people that come to see you live on this tour via your music?
Hiroaki: We're just the ones playing the music. I hope that everyone's heart will beat as one as they listen to the music and can enjoy the lives, and especially our music, together in the same way. As one.
Yuki: The music is but the word, to spread the message.

What event that happened to you as a band member of I-ai would you say influences you the most when creating music now?
Hiroaki: Every very real experience influences us when making music.

When listening to Crystallize I noticed how many different styles you mix together to create your own original sound, which artists influence you the most when creating music?
Hiroaki: I like a lot of different genres, such as rock, classical and jazz, so I like to incorporate the elements I prefer from each. And of course I am influenced by many artists from each style, some of my favourites are *Michael Jackson* and *Enya*.
Yuki: I like *Linkin Park*, *Evanescence*, *Daft Punk*, *Skrillex* and *Kraftwerk*. I love rock, electronic music and dub step.

How do you think this European tour will influence your future works?
Hiroaki: We hope that this will help us reach more people. Hopefully we'll gain more fans by performing in different European cities, and more around the world will start liking I-ai.

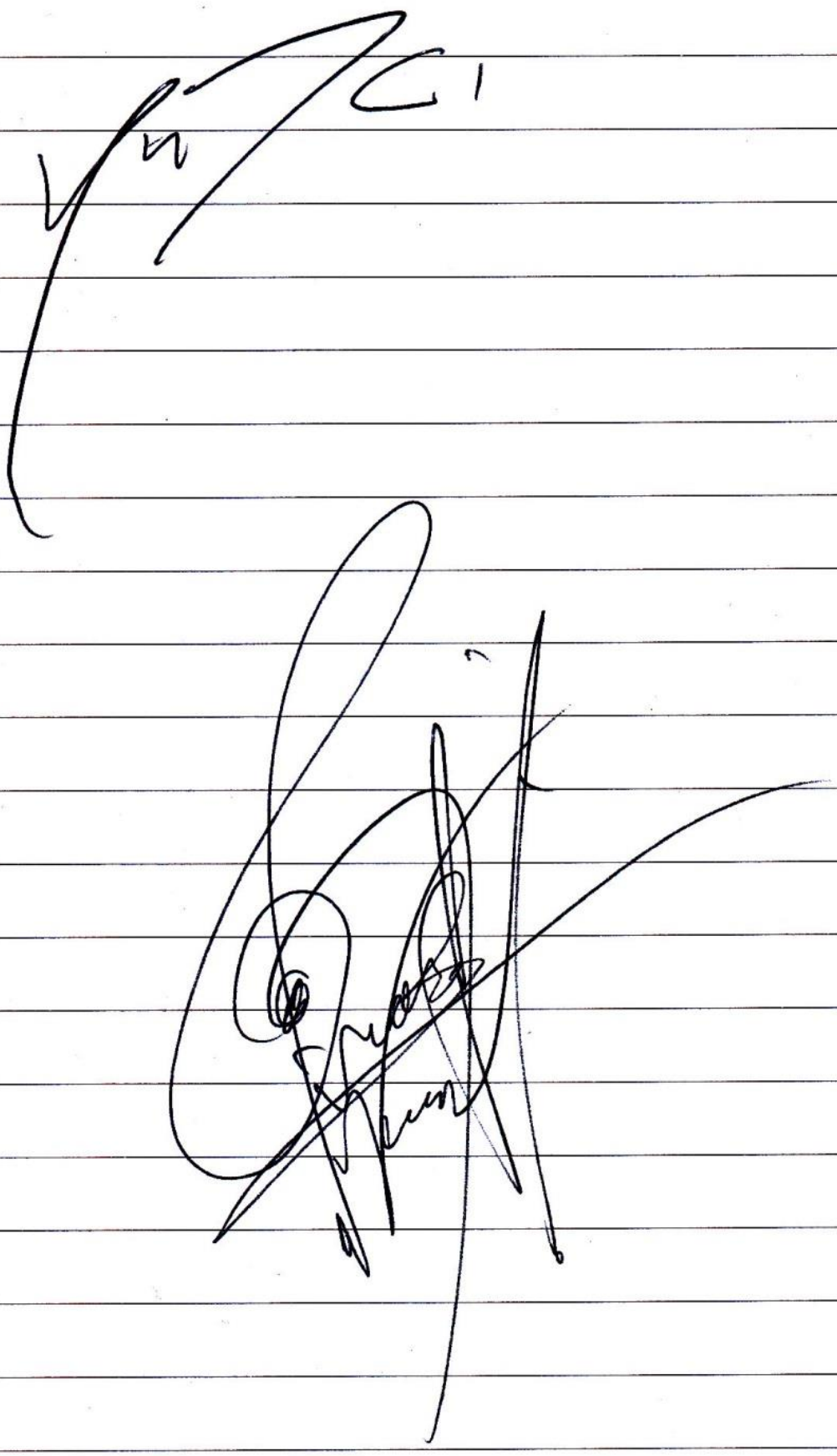
You're performing in both Roubaix and Brussels, both known for their fashion colleges (ESMOD in Roubaix and La Cambre in Brussels). Fashion is very important for a musician, who are your favourite designers?
Yuki: I like *Jean-Paul Gaultier* and *IKAME*, which is a Japanese brand. *Takayuki Ishii*, which is probably my favourite Japanese brand, *PUNKS* and the costumes that *Jean Cocteau* made.
Hiroaki: It doesn't have to be expensive for me to want to wear it. I actually don't really care about brand names, as long as it looks good I'm pleased.

Does your personal style differ much from the fashions you wear on stage with I-ai?
Yuki: Not really, I always wear all black, no matter the occasion *smiles*.
Hiroaki: If it were up to me, I'd always be naked *laughs*.

As a closing note, could you tell our readers something about I-ai that isn't commonly known?
Hiroaki: Many of our songs have a ghost voice. And that's the truth *smiles*. And we like to laugh *smiles*!
Yuki: In 2014 we definitely want to do more promotion so more people get to know our band. We're writing new songs and hopefully we'll be able to release a new single or album.
Hiroaki: The new release will have all English lyrics, I'm practising my English pronunciation *smiles*.

Official site: www.i-ai.jp

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by provided by Jessica Öjermalm.
Japanese translations by Jessica Öjermalm. Many thanks to Râmen Events.



Japanese metal band ElüpiA distinguish themselves from the others in their genre by their mix of classical, opera and melodic metal, topped off with the use of organs and soprano style vocals.
They just released their newest single "Departure" when this edition is released so we spoke to organist Yuvica and singer Nene over email.

By way of introduction, could you say something nice about each other?
Hello from Japan to everyone who is able to read this. We are a symphonic metal band that has a soprano and opera style vocalist in **Nene**. **Yuvica** plays a colourful sound on his organ. **Hisa** is our wise man pianist. **Louisca** and **Mats** form our exciting guitar and bass combo. It would be great to hear what other people want to know about it us and it's great to have the opportunity to express our inner thoughts to the world.

How did you come up with the name ElüpiA and what does it mean?
Yuvica (organ): The name came out of nowhere and doesn't have an actual meaning. It just appeared one day, almost like how you would name a country.

You have no drummer in the band, which is quite exceptional. Did you always plan to be a band without a drummer?
Yuvica: When looking for band members it is always hardest to find a drummer, the same goes for keyboardists, but somehow we have two of those. We would like to have an official drummer if the opportunity arises, but it's also interesting to play with support musicians.

You are releasing your new single "*Departure*" at the end of January, could you tell us a little more about it?
Yuvica: First we have the song "*The Hypnotizing Forest*" to which there are the two sequels included on Departure. When compared to our first mini-album "*WILDERNESS*" this one is a selection of more recent work which we composed to be more catchy.
Editor: ElüpiA's new single release Departures was released on January 29th. Check their website for a list of places where it is available for sale.

In what other ways would you say your music has evolved from your previous release "WILDERNESS" to "Departure"?
Yuvica: I also experimented with remixing an old song, which turned out well so I decided to add it into our new single. I already have an idea for our upcoming new album and 'Departure' is an important part of that.

You're a symphonic metal band with emphasis on soprano elements, how did you came to compose and make music like this?
Yuvica: In the beginning it was all about trial and error. Eventually, after we became comfortable with each other, we found our style and with a lot of experimentation began to create the way we do now. Of course our backgrounds influence us a lot. Classical music and heavy sounds are a very important part of us as a band.

You have collaborated with *Strange Artifact* and their accessories label *Poorman's Gold Label* for both performances and stage outfit pieces, could you tell us a little more about how this collaboration came to be?
Yuvica: Since we were often taking part in the same events we became good friends from talking backstage. Then one day I listened to their music and had the sudden desire to perform together with them. Their impressive costumes also inspired me to create the outfit pieces I wear. Thanks to our work together we have created a strong friendship.

Nene, you have an absolutely amazing operatic voice, did you receive any special vocal schooling?
Yes, I went to university for formal classical music education with an emphasis on opera singing.

Are you influenced by classical music and opera?
Yuvica: Yes of course. Classical music and instruments help to inspire me and I personally find dramatic opera pleasant and relaxing to listen to.

Which are your favourite classical pieces and opera?
Yuvica: There are too many to list when it comes to classical pieces… But for opera, *George Bizet*'s works are my favourite. I find them entertaining and they always stick in my mind afterwards.
Nene (vocals): My favourite composer is *Richard Strauss* and I especially like his opera "*Der Rosenkavalier*".

On your song "*Ödland*" you use German lyrics, how did you come to using German?
Yuvica: Each and every language has its own sound and atmosphere when used in music. This is very important to consider when deciding to use a foreign language in any kind of music. We decided to use German for that reason. In the future I hope we can collaborate with people from all over the world!

One of the songs on WILDERNESS is called "*I like my shoes*". Could you describe your favourite pair of shoes to us?
Yuvica: In that song the heroine chooses being barefoot as her favourite "pair of shoes", but in my case pointy shoes are always my favourite. I hope I'm able to find a pair where the tip is really easy to lift, like if I could lift a cargo plane using only one finger… It's because I have to constantly use two pedals on my organ without the use of a chair which is really difficult when wearing shoes. So I actually have to be barefoot on stage!

On a closing note, what can you tell our readers that isn't commonly known about ElüpiA?
Yuvica: I guess something unknown would be our plans to make a music video soon… But other than that, we are going to keep making more and more amazing music to make your lives exciting! So please keep your eyes peeled for what is to come from ElüpiA!

Official site: www.elupia.com
Official facebook: www.facebook.com/elupia
Official twitter: twitter.com/ElupiA_official

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Clara Lina Wirz. Photography provided by ElüpiA. Many thanks to ElüpiA.

Love locks in Osaka.
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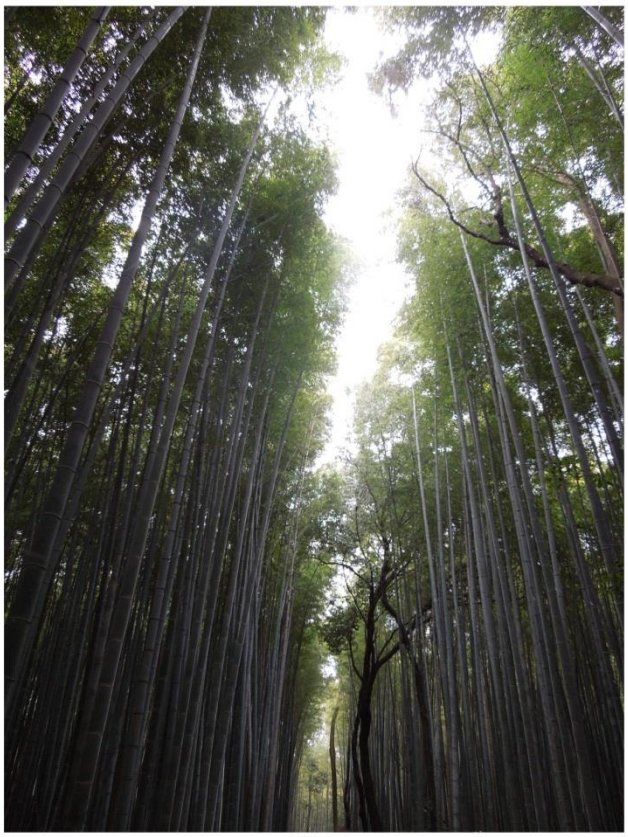


Kyoto

The *Fushimi Taisha* shrine for *Inari* in Fushimi-ku, Kyoto.

Nagoya

Nagoya castle and garden

Top: view from Nagoya castle onto the city of Nagoya.

Middle: Nagoya castle gardens.

Bottom: crows on the snowy castle grounds.

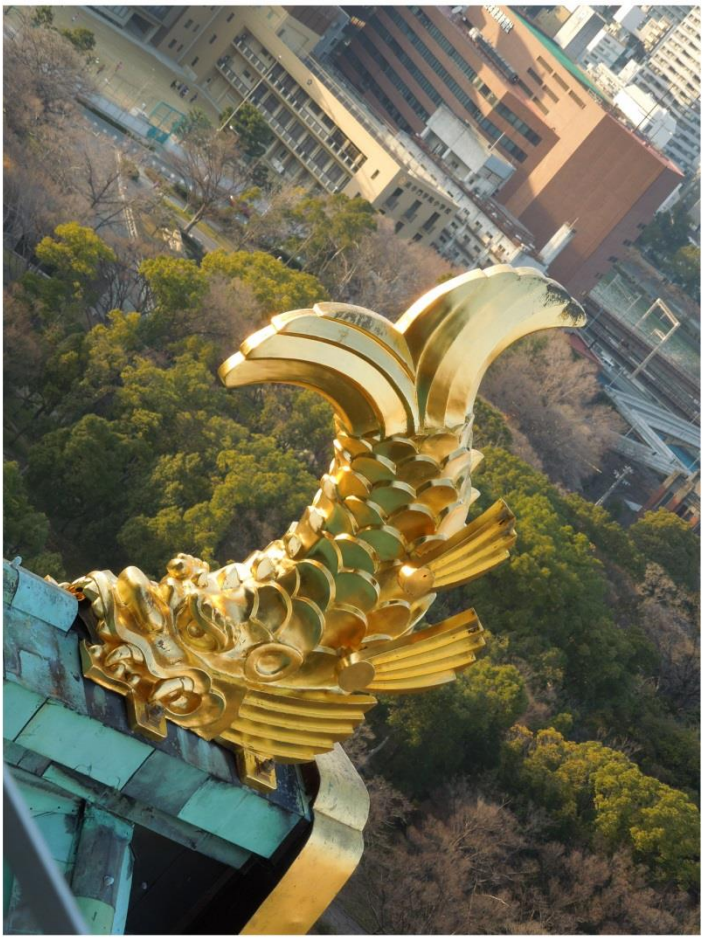
Feeding the deer in

Nara

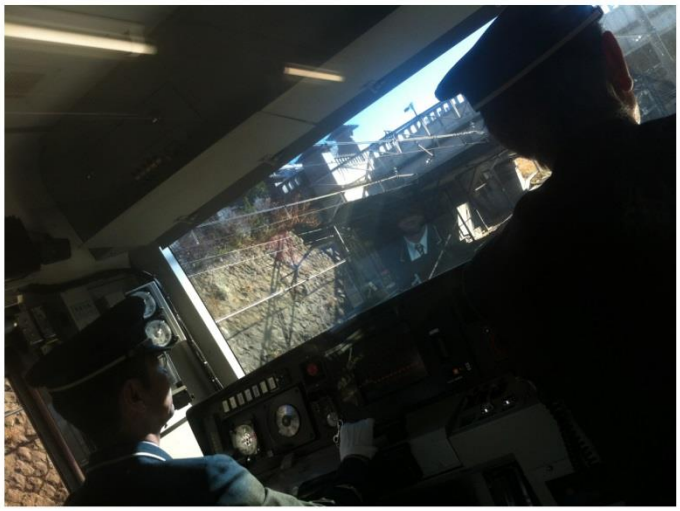
Snow covered ski station in the town of

echigo Yuzawa

Osaka



Clockwise top left to bottom left:
Street musician singing in his idea of French, Takoyaki speciality restaurant, flamingo decoration, koi fish decoration on Osaka castle.



Clockwise from top left to bottom left:
Tokyo Kabukicho, drivers of a JR train on the Yamanote line,
dessert at the Vampire Café (www.diamond-dining.com/vampire), display ice cream cones, much like a 2D menu.

tokyo

Clockwise top left to bottom left:
Panda mailbox outside the Ueno Zoo, the Shinjuku Southern Terras after dark,
strawberry mochi at a Ginza store, beautifully decorated cake at the Swallowtail Butler cafe (http://en.japantravel.com/view/swallowtail-butler-cafe-ikebukuro).

WONDERLAND
DESIGNS
Hats to make life
so much more fun.

***Wonderland Designs** is best known for their quirky and fabulous hair accessories, hats and fascinators, in all kinds of styles and depicting all kinds of subjects and fandoms, creating that little extra to spice up every kind of outfit. We spoke to designer **Amaya Yuki** who kindly guided us down the rabbit hole of her own private Wonderland.*

For those that don't know *Wonderland Designs* yet, could you tell us a little more about your label?
Wonderland Designs is a small brand of handmade hats and fascinators. I make all of them myself and most of the time only one of each design. I make a lot of different styles because I'm also very interested in a lot of different things. But generally you can call all of them extravagant *smiles*.

What made you start Wonderland Designs and what inspires you the most for new creations?
It started with a conversation with my boyfriend. I was complaining about having nothing to do on lazy Sundays. I've always liked to make things but for clothing I just lose patience. Somehow me and the sewing machine have a love/hate relationship. So he said I should make accessories. A lot of people already make jewellery so that's how I got the idea for hats. My inspiration can be anything. Sometimes something pops in to my head and I start looking for the right supplies to make it. Sometimes I just look at what I have a see what I can do with that.

You use the name *Amaya Yuki* as your designer identity behind Wonderland Designs, how did you come up with that and does it have a specific meaning?
Not really. I was looking for a name that would sound nice. I just didn't want to use my real name for privacy reasons. *Yuki* means snow and does suit me because I have very pale skin. *Amaya* has an Arabic origin and means night rain.

You're also a professional ballet dancer, in how far does dance influence your designs?
Not at all, really. Making hats is my time away from dance. I do have a hat with pointe shoes because dance is and will always be very important to me.

A lot of your designs are very sweet and you wear Sweet Lolita at times, what draws you to sweet in both your designs and fashion?
It is just incredibly cute! Like I said before, I like a lot of styles. On a normal day I will most likely not be wearing pink but a lot more black. I just can't make up my mind about what I like most, because everything is so amazing!

Are there any other Japanese fashions you like and (would) wear?
To be honest I'm not very informed when it comes to that. I will probably like most of them though *smiles*. I've been told I have the *Cult party kei* look, but that was without really knowing it. I just liked it.

Fandom is often a focus with your design, which things are you yourself fan of?
DOCTOR WHO! Yes, that's my absolute favourite, but once again I like a lot of things. I'm also a very big *Alice in Wonderland* fan, hence the name Wonderland Designs. I kind of imagined myself as the *Mad Hatter*. Besides those things; high heels, corsets, 50's fashion,... everything!

If money to put something together were no issue at all and the sky were literally the limit, what would you love to make when it comes to headwear?
I'd love to be able to make the big Las Vegas style headpieces with gigantic feathers! But besides needing money, I will also need to learn more about making those. When something gets big, it starts to be hard to find the right balance to it and a good way to put it on without falling down or hurting. I also want to make some latex accessories, that will happen somewhere in the near future *smiles*, so I'm very excited about that. I think what I want to make will keep evolving at all times. I always strive for more and better.

You're often selling at conventions, where can we see you in person in 2014?
So far the only confirmed events are *Gala Nocturna* in Antwerp on the 8th of March. For this one I will not be taking my pink and fluffy designs but more Goth and Steampunk items. The second event is Antwerp Convention on the 27th of April. I'm looking into some other things but I can't say anything 'till those are confirmed.

You also do commission work, what has been the most fun commission to do so far?
It's hard to say. It's nice to see what other ideas people have. A lot of times I just get a certain colour and style but the customer still leaves me free to do my own thing. I have enjoyed making the big *Rainbow Dash* fascinator. I'd love to make more big pieces *smiles*.

What was the greatest compliment you've ever received about your work?
All compliments are amazing but the best is when I walk down the street and spot someone randomly wearing one of my hats. It has happened a few times now and I almost jump from joy.

As a closing note: any shout-outs?
I haven't found a spot for this yet. I've made some hats for *Kostuum & Karamel* in Mechelen. They are exclusive for that store, hopefully this collaboration last for a long time. Also, a big thank you to my costumers and my helpers, without you I couldn't keep doing all of this! And... never stop wearing silly hats, they make life so much more fun!

Official facebook: facebook.com/designedinwonderland
Contact email: wonderlanddesigns@hotmail.be

Interview and product photo by Hilde Heyvaert.
Intro page photo by Catherine Jane Robertson, make-up by Milopunk.
Model photo on this page: photography by Eyeshootphotographs, make-up by Sarina Mannaert.
Models: Victoria Rose, Siobhan and Amaya Yuki.

CUPCAKE FOCUS:
Babs

in a nutshell

Name: Babs Barning
Forum nick: crimsoncrimes
Age: 24
Styles: Sweet Lolita, Casual Lolita and a mix between mori-kei and dolly-kei
Favourite brands: Angelic Pretty, but I also love thrifting.
Wearing J-fashion since: 2010

Babs' unique style mixes resulting of combinations of several J-fashion styles have been awesome for years. One of the most diverse members of the Belgian Cupcakes, it was high time to find out a little more about her.

You often wear a mix between mori- and dolly-kei. What do you like best about these styles?
I love that the rules are more free than those of many J-fashion styles such as Lolita. Even though there are rules, you can still easily do your own thing, and it's pretty easy to get the clothing. You can easily get by without buying Japanese brands and going to a thrift store. I also like that it's a far more natural silhouette, and that it is more wearable and I get more use out of separate garments.

In April you are going to the first edition of *Enchanted* in London, what appeals most about this event?
I have always wanted to do a large tea party event, just for the experience. And Enchanted just seems really awesome. For starters because it's a J-fashion event, and not just a Lolita event, and that's the kind of event I like best. I'm also really looking forward to meeting *Minori*. I missed out on meeting her at *Japan Expo* in July, much to my regret, so I'm really pleased with the second chance. What I'm also looking forward to is being able to meet other J-fashion fans from over all over Europe. And being able to make a real trip out of a J-fashion event with friends too of course.

What's the best convention in Belgium to wear J-fashion?
Made in Asia, hands down. It's not just Japan centred like some other conventions, but even though it can get quite crowded, the people visiting are very relaxed and open minded. There's no elitism and snobbery going around and that's just a lot of fun and makes the environment ideal to wear J-fashion in. And you can always find cute accessories and things you can't find anywhere else, which is awesome. Plus on Friday it has a couple of hours free entrance, which is a nice bonus.

If money were no issue and you found yourself in Tokyo, which store would you positively empty out?
Closet Child! Who wouldn't?! It's so much cheaper there than buying it new. Plus it's as exciting as going to a thrift shop here, which I love, because you will never know what treasure you will find. And the *Disney Store* of course, also the ones in *Tokyo Disney*. I would probably have a look inside several stores in LaForet too, you never know what finds you can do there.

What's your Lolita dream print?
It used to be *Little Bear's Café*. And actually it still is that one, in brown or mint. It will probably always remain that print, unless *Disney* collaborates with a Lolita brand and comes up with an awesome *Duffy* print *laughs*.

You're an avid Disney fan, if you were to make a Disney themed coord, on which character would you base it and what kind of outfit would it be?
I would do an OTT Sweet Lolita outfit based on *Duffy, the Disney Bear*. I think Duffy is absolutely adorable and lends himself very well to do Lolita coords with, not just Sweet mind. I've collected various Duffy things over the past years, so it'd be awesome to be able to use them in a Duffy themed outfit. I would totally go to Disneyland Paris wearing that outfit and pose with Duffy just because I can *grins*.

And what about a fandom coord?
I like a lot of fandoms such as *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, *Glee*, the *Tolkien* universe and various others, but if I had to go with one I'd go with *Harry Potter*. That's the most fun to me personally, and I'd do a *House Slytherin* based for sure.

Are there any J-fashion styles you'd never wear?
I can't see myself wear *Visual kei*. Not because I think it's unflattering or something like that, but because I can't see it suit me. Or things that are very revealing, I wouldn't feel comfortable in an outfit that is barely more than my underwear.

Which J-fashion styles you've not worn yet would you consider trying?
Maybe *Cult Party kei*, or perhaps a *shironuri* outfit, but not as over the top like the awesome outfits *Minori* does, I would do something more casual as that suits me better.

What has been the most memorable reaction to you wearing J-fashion from an outsider?
Before going to one of my first meets, the picnic meet at a friend's house, I was picking up some other friends at Berchem train station to go along with me the rest of the way in my car. I was in the elevator wearing my pink *Fantastic Dolly* OP dress with a long pink wig. And a little girl noticed me and pointed, shouting very enthousiastly "*look mummy, a princess!*" She was just so adorable! I love how children are still so honest and accepting of different things, not like some adults. Compliments are the moments that I remember best.

You often read Japanese fashion magazines, how would you compare people wearing J-fashion in Japan based on that to people wearing it over here?
I like how they seem to be much more relaxed about their outfits. Obviously you'll still see full outfits that look like they could have stepped out of brand advertisements, but in general it really seems like they're very open about it and mix things up more. You often see combinations that are slightly more mismatched, and quite experimental, that's an attitude about fashion I really do like.

What's the best about your local community, the Belgian Cupcakes?
That even if I don't feel like wearing Lolita, I can still go to meets wearing another J-fashion style, even though it is primarily a Lolita community. We're all friends, and having fun together is the most important at meets. It's very free, because all styles are welcome, no matter whether you wear brand, offbrand or hand-made, a popular style or a fringe style, its all good, as long as you wear Japanese fashion. I really like that freedom.

As a closing note: if you could change one thing in the international community in general, what would it be?
I would love it if people could be less judgemental and would quit making things like the personal hate secrets. Of course you'll always have people that are judgemental, not just in J-fashion, but I do think that we'd be better off if people would ease up a little and just tried to get along. And if you think someone should improve their style, maybe take them apart or send them a nice constructive message rather than hate on them online, hating will amount to nothing but negativity.

Babs' tumblr: crimson-fashion.tumblr.com

Interview and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

Brussels, Belgium — 29 March 2014

COALESCAREMONIUM

RADIANT DARKNESS

Start: 15:00h
End: 02:00h

Join the second edition of the Grandioso Gothic Happening by Nocturna & Discipulus!

Presale: €32 / At the gates: €40

OPUS RELINQUE

LE BOUCHE A OREILLE

Theme Representatives

TElombre ◄
Master of Ceremony

► Rachael Forbes
International Fashion Icon

Alternating Dance Room

15:00 ► Dark Industrial
Dj Deth Cure [Infekted]

Dark Electro-EBM ◄ 16:00
Dj Ko-ën [The Darkest Party]

17:00 ► Ambiant Darkwave
Nocturne [Coalescaremonium]

Glam/Shock Rock ◄ 18:00
Dj Michou [Elektrocution Record Shop]

19:00 ► Minimal Wave
Blackmarquis [DARKOTHEQUE]

(rhythmic) Noise ◄ 20:00
Dj N.M.I. [VampireParty]

21:00 ► Deathrock/Batcave
Dj Vagabond [Fresh From The Grave]

Gothic Metal ◄ 22:00
Discipulus [Coalescaremonium]

23:00 ► Postpunk
Dj BlackWave [Le Fantastique]

Witch House ◄ 24:00
Dj Normkompatibel [Bunkerleute]

Official Photographers

Veerle Frissen ◄
Scenic Photographer

► Erika Althreya
Studio Photographer

Freedon Nadd ◄
Artist Photographer

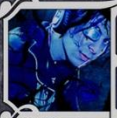
► Dennis Kussener
Event Filmer

Main Room Concerts

star ★ industry
Electro-Gothic Rock
16:00 ◄► 17:00

LORD OF THE LOST
Industrial-Gothic Metal
19:00 ◄► 20:30

Main/Industrial Party



21:00 ► Dj Lordbone
Cybergoth/Industrial [Nocturna XXL]

Dj ChavakiaH ◄ 22:00
Aggrotech/Harsh EBM [[Hell]ektroshock]

23:00 ► Dj ALCHEMY
Powernoise/Industrial [BliZarK]

Dj SiSeN ◄ 24:00
Darkwave/Industrial [Tokyo Decadance]

Dance / Fashion / Art

► Sam Synthethic & Credo Aestheticx ◄
On Stage Industrial Dancers
+ Team of 12 Selected Dancers
from the CSM Youtube Dance Competition

Edith de Rijk ◄
Underground Fashion Model

► Sara Scarlet
Underground Fashion Model

Xanthy Marit ◄
Underground Fashion Model

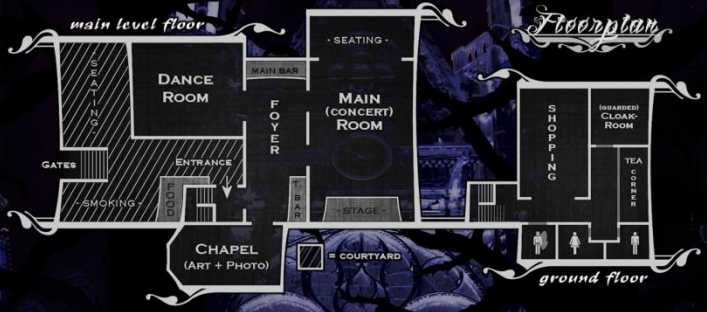
► Obsydienn
Exposing Graphic Artist, Illustrator

Frank Wiersema ◄
Exposing Narrative Photographer

► Myriel Achalott
Exposing Tradgoth Cartoonist

Coalescaremonium is a 'grandioso gothic happening' that unites the various goth subscenes in a converted monastery in the European heart of Brussels with high attention to detail and focus on Music, Dance, Art and Fashion.

Floorplan



Location

Le Bouche à Oreille: Rue Félix Hap 11 , 1040 Etterbeek. Easily reachable by both car and public transport (hub Merode) with free parking at Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark.

Dresscode

Dark-scene/Gothic/Deviant: Tradgoth, Punk-waver, Fantasy, Cybergoth, Neoromantic, Lolita, Aristocrat, Steam, Drag, Metal, Dungeonista, Batcave, ...

Afterparty

by El Poly of Filth, Death Metal DJ, until 7AM at La Porte Noire, Rue des Alexiens 67, 1000 BXL. Travel-group leaving together immediately after the event.

www.coalescaremonium.info
Tickets & Info

facebook/coalescaremonium
Newsfeed

EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

MARCH 2014

Gala Nocturna
La Belle et la Bête
Date: 8
Venue: Marble hall of the Antwerp Zoo
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.gala-nocturna.com

Irasshai 4
Japanese movie event
Date: 9
Venue: CC Rix
City: Deurne
Country: Belgium
www.nipponzasshi.be

Made in Asia
Date: 14 - 16
Venue: Brussels Expo
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.madeinasia.be

ADAMS European tour
The First Sin Tour
14: Made in Asia, Laeken, Belgium
15: Made in Asia, Laeken, Belgium
16: Galerie Mister LO, Paris, France
21: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France
22: Clermont Geek Convention, Clermont Ferrand, France
23: La Java, Paris, France
27: Garage Deluxe, Munich, Germany
28: Aera, Vienna, Austria
29: Storm Club, Prague, Czech Republic
30: Klub Progresja, Warshaw, Poland
www.ramen-events.com

Sayaconcept live
Date: 16
Venue: Made in Asia
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.madeinasia.be

COALESCAREMONIUM
Date: 29
Venue: the old monastery "Bouche à Oreille"
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.coalescaremonium.info

APRIL 2014

ADAMS European tour
The First Sin Tour
3: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
4: Marie-Antoinette, Hamburg, Germany
5: MTC, Cologne, Germany
6: La Légia (VIP show), Liège, Belgium
11: Gloria, Helsinki, Finland
12: Lakeside, Stockholm, Sweden
19: Zhivoe TV, Moscow, Russia
21: Polymanga, Montreux, Switzerland
24: P60, Amstelveen, The Netherlands
25: Extremanga, Merida, Spain
27: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France
www.ramen-events.com

Enchanted
Date: 5 & 6
5: Street Fashion Europe Event
Venue: Gibson Hall
6: Tea Party
Venue: Rubens Hotel
City: London
Country: UK
egl.livejournal.com/19427688.html

Elfia Haarzuilens
Previously known as Elf Fantasy Fair
Date: 19 – 21
Venue: Grounds of Castle De Haar
City: Haarzuilens
Country: The Netherlands
http://elfia.com

heidi live
Date: 20
Venue: La Java
City: Paris
Country: France
www.ramen-events.com

Antwerp Convention
Date: 27
Venue: Antwerp Expo
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.antwerpconvention.be

JUNE 2014

FantastyVal
Date: 14 – 15
Venue: Estate Wouwse Plantage
City: Wouwse Plantage
Country: The Netherlands
www.fantastyval.com

JULY 2014

Japan Expo
15th anniversary edition
Without Comic Con Paris this year!
Date: 2 – 6
Venue: Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo.com

D.E.S.C.
Dutch European Steampunk Convention
Date: 25 – 27
Venue: De Lindehorst
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.dutcheuropeansteampunkconvention.nl

OCTOBER 2014

Metal Female Voices Fest
Date: 17 – 19
Venue: Oktoberhallen
City: Wieze
Country: Belgium
www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

FACTS
Date: 18 – 19
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

ANTWERP #4
CONVENTION
Sunday
27:04
2014
10h00
18h00
1 day of
SCI-FI
FANTASY
&
HORROR
6000 m² of
COMICS
BOOKS
GADGETS
GAMES
TOYS
MANGA
MOVIES
and much more
ALL NEW
GAMING ROOMS!
SPECIAL GUESTS!
COSPLAY!
DESIGN: WWW.KUSTOM.BE
ANTWERP EXPO
More info: ANTWERPCONVENTION.BE
JAN VAN RIJSWIJCKLAAN 191
2020 ANTWERPEN • BELGIUM
www.facebook.com/antwerp.convention

BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!

Andrea

Clara

Lunie of Lunieshop

Annso

Saltje

Karolina of Sceptical Minds

Hilde

Dorian

Trotro

Daisy

Alishia

Karin of Asrai

FAIRY TALE J-FASHION MEET SNAP!

Saturday, February 1; Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Margot.

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline.
Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.
The deadline for issue 18 is **April 24th**.
Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of April 25nd will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.
Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.
If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better!
(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit).
Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.
Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!
ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).
That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 18,
spanning the months
May and June 2014.

Fashion

Style Spotlight: Classic Lolita!

Classic Lolita fashion feature

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.
So if you have a good quality high resolution photo of yourself wearing Classic Lolita (any kind of Classic goes, be it casual, OTT, ...!), please don't hesitate to send it in!

Spring themed J-fashion photo feature

Any type of J-fashion is welcome, as long as it is spring themed!

And more!

J-Music Corner

CD reviews
Concert reviews
Interviews with
- ADAMS
- DJ SiSeN
- LIV'ERT

Lifestyle

Event reviews
J-fashion meets
Artifakt steampunk meets
Interview with Mikaru
And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps,
send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed),
or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event
and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!

And more...

Exclusive art by the super talented Margot!

銀chang of GHOST HARLEM.
Saturday, December 2013; live at Crescendo, Kichijoji, Tokyo, Japan.
Photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be) ©.